

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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COUNTRY Manchuria

SUBJECT Economic and Political Situation, Mutanchiang
Province

PLACE
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DATE OF
INFO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Koreans living in Mutanchiang Province were distributed as follows: Mutanchiang City (129-37, 44-35), 7,000 persons; East Mutanchiang City, 2,500 persons; Hailin (129-23, 44-34), 3,500 persons; Shanshih (129-06, 44-35), 1,500 persons. About 80 percent of the Koreans were farmers, divided equally between rice and vegetable farming; 10 percent were in the army or police; 6 percent were small merchants; and 2 percent were teachers.
2. Most of the Korean farmers lived in small villages which were surrounded by wooden or earthen walls, with only two entrances. All men and women between the ages of 18 and 35 were required to stand guard duty, one at each gate during the day and five during the night. Often these guards were armed only with home-made spears.
3. Travel permits were required for journeys beyond five miles. These permits could be obtained in the villages through oral requests made to the neighborhood elder. In a village, five houses equalled a neighborhood, each neighborhood had one elder, and the village elder was elected from the neighborhood elders. If the neighborhood and village elders approved the request for a travel permit, then it would be issued by the county office. There was a slight variation on this in the city, which was divided into blocks, each with a block leader. Five blocks made a neighborhood. A written request was made to the neighborhood elder, and if approved, the district office would issue the permit, which had to be countersigned by the neighborhood elder.
4. Travel was restricted to the very poor. The wealthy landlords and 500 who remained in the province as doctors, nurses and technicians were not allowed to travel. A travel permit had to be presented in order to buy a railroad ticket, and it was checked by the conductor on the train and again by an official at the point of destination.
5. A traveler could not stay in a village if he had no friends there, and even if he had friends, his stay was limited to three days. There was no house checking except twice a year during the regular spring and autumn census. However, in the cities guests who remained more than a week had to be reported to the police.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1975 from the
Director of Central Intelligence

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It was the duty of the block chief to see that this was done. Every evening at 9 the police would check hotel registers and the travel permits of the guests. If a person was caught with an expired travel permit, he would be sentenced to a period of forced labor. Although there was no curfew, police thoroughly checked the identification of persons on the street from 9 in the evening to 5 in the morning.

6. After July 1948, a residence certificate was issued to all persons above 18 years of age. This could be presented instead of a travel permit for train tickets over a short distance. These certificates were not given the [] wealthy landlords. Application for the certificate was made by the head of the house to the block chief. The names and ages of the members of the household were written on a wooden board which was nailed up at the front of the house.

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7. When the Chinese Communists came, they promised a tax of only 25 percent of farm produce. However, various other taxes were imposed to the extent that almost 50 percent of the crop was taken. Most of the poor Koreans were satisfied with the Communist regime and had no desire to return to Korea, because they had obtained land from the Communists, the soil was rich, and the Communists were able to do away with discrimination and friction between the Koreans and Chinese. The farmers were supposed to sell their produce through the Farmers' Cooperative, but because the revenue from this sale was so low, they often resorted to the black market. In Mutanchiang the black market operated openly, after the Farmers' Cooperative had closed at 9 p.m.

8. [] representative prices in Northeast currency were as follows: *

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Rice	1 kilogram	NEPC	16,000
Salt	1 kilogram	NEPC	16,000
Cotton cloth	1 yard	NEPC	40,000
Rubber shoes	1 pair	NEPC	100,000
Paper	1 sheet	NEPC	3,000
Sugar	1 kilogram	NEPC	30,000

The produce taken as tax was sold by the Farmers' Cooperative, often 10 percent below the market price, so that long lines of people waited to buy. Because of this competition, there were very few small merchants, and they had to be licensed by the government.

9. Luxury items were hard to get; bicycles cost NEPC 1,500,000, and second-hand Japanese radios cost NEPC 700,000. A permit for the radio had to be obtained from the local authorities, since radios with more than five tubes were forbidden. Mutanchiang and the surrounding area got its electricity from the water power of Lake Chingpo (128- , 43-).
10. Military restricted areas and the Mutanchiang Textile Factory required a pass for entry. To get into any government building a visitor had to have a pass made out giving his name, age, address, and the purpose of the visit. Restricted zones were at the Chinese Communist arsenal at Yeh Ho (掖河), 5 miles east of Mutanchiang, the airports at Hai Lang (海拉), 4 miles south of Mutanchiang, Yen Chun (延春), 10 miles south of Mutanchiang, and Shih Chang An. The headquarters of the Chinese Communist army in Mutanchiang were in the former South Manchurian Railway Hospital. At Sechikou, 4 miles west of Mutanchiang, there was an artillery training school.
11. A number of Koreans who were dissatisfied with the Communist regime were successful in escaping to North Korea through the Tumen (129-50, 42-55) area. One Korean [] took a train at a station called Kallo, half way between Hailin and Mutanchiang, at which there was no checking, other than for identification cards. The ticket to Tumen costs NEPC 97,000, and the trip took 10 hours. He stayed with a friend in Tumen who put him in touch with a smuggler. The Korean

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gave the smuggler NEPC 5,000,000 and was promised 14,000 North Korean won in exchange on the North Korean side, since the Korean was going to cross the river by himself. He found no difficulty in crossing the river at night.

12. [] another Korean decided to go to North Korea, but was forbidden by the authorities unless he had some talent that could be utilized by the North Korean government. So he took a train to Tumen and went to a village five miles to the north called Leng Shui Ch'uan Tzu (冷水川子) and stayed at the Namhung Hotel. The manager of the hotel put him in touch with smugglers who got him across the river safely. It was rumored that there was opium smuggling in the Tumen area, and that a bribe of NEPC 300,000 to the border police was sufficient to get any type of package into Korea. 25X1

Comment: The value of NEPC fluctuated so much during the period under discussion that no fixed comparison in hard currency can be given for unspecified dates. 25X1

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